

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 091736

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF, VS

SUBJECT: GENEVA 2684 AND PREVIOUS

1. APPRECIATE CONSTRUCTIVE RESPONSE OF UNHCR AND ITS WILLINGNESS TO COOPERATE IN ASSISTING IN RESETTLEMENT OF CAMBODIANS AND VIETNAMESE OUTSIDE THEIR COUNTRIES.

2. IN DISCUSSIONS WITH CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES ON ASSISTANCE TO INDOCHINESE REFUGEES, INCLUDING POSSIBLE RESETTLEMENT IN THE U.S., THERE IS STRONG AGREEMENT THAT: (A) REFUGEE ASSISTANCE BE SPEARHEADED BY AN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION PREFERABLY UNHCR; (B) OTHER GOVERNMENTS DO THEIR SHARE IN PROVIDING RESETTLEMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR INDOCHINESE REFUGEES. U.S. WOULD BE PREPARED TO LEND SUBSTANTIAL FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO UNHCR FOR INTERNATIONAL RESETTLEMENT EFFORT.

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3. YOU SHOULD FOLLOW-UP THEREFORE WITH UNHCR AT HIGHEST LEVELS TO DETERMINE THE SPECIFIC TYPES OF ASSISTANCE THAT UNHCR IS PREPARED TO PROVIDE:

(A) CAN THE UNHCR APPROACH PROSPECTIVE COUNTRIES IN THE AREA TO DETERMINE WHETHER THEY COULD RECEIVE REFUGEES FOR ONWARD PROCESSING? FYI: WE HAVE APPROACHED ON A

BILATERAL BASIS A NUMBER OF COUNTRIES IN THE AREA: SINGAPORE, THAILAND, PHILIPPINES, MALAYSIA, REPUBLIC OF CHINA, INDONESIA, AND KOREA. END FYI.

(B) CAN UNHCR ASSUME OVERALL LEADERSHIP AND RESPONSIBILITY FOR A RESETTLEMENT EFFORT? USG PERSONNEL WOULD BE AVAILABLE AS REQUESTED BY UNHCR TO PROVIDE NECESSARY ASSISTANCE.

(C) WHAT ARE THE CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH UNHCR CAN HELP?

(D) HOW WOULD UNHCR PROPOSE TO MOUNT AN INTERNATIONAL APPEAL FOR RESETTLEMENT OF CAMBODIA AND VIETNAM REFUGEES?

(E) ALSO INFORM UNHCR THAT A NUMBER OF CAMBODIANS (PRIMARILY DIPLOMATS) ARE REQUESTING U.S. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE IN THIRD COUNTRIES. WE ARE REFERRING THEM TO UNHCR, ICEM OR VOLAGS FOR HELP. FYI: IF ALL THESE SOURCES PROVE UNPRODUCTIVE, WE WILL PROVIDE SOME SUBSISTENCE FUNDS. END FYI. U.S. IS EXPLORING ROLE IT WILL PLAY IN TAKING ITS FAIR SHARE OF THESE REFUGEES.

4. IN DISCUSSING THESE MATTERS WITH UNHCR, STRESS NEED FOR COMPLETE CONFIDENTIALITY. YOU SHOULD ALSO STRESS OUR VERY STRONG VIEWS AND THOSE OF THE CONGRESS THAT ASSISTING INDOCHINESE REFUGEES IS NOT SIMPLY A U.S. MATTER BUT ONE FOR THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE.

5. A SIMILAR APPROACH SHOULD BE MADE TO ICEM. KISSINGER

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